Job opportunities In road sector

1765. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the thrust on road construction is proving to have strong backward linkages and is fueling big time growth in the economy;

(b) whether roads, culverts and bridges are the largest consumers of steei and building material leading to high demand for these inputs including creation of job opportunities; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the impact of these projects on the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Road construction has strong backward linkages to the industry relating to cement, steel, petroleum and oil, equipment, crushing and mixing etc. The thrust on road construction would provide necessary support to economic growth.

(b) Construction of roads, culverts and bridges is one of the largest consumers of steel and building materials and generates employment opportunities.Construction of Phase I of National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which is presently under progress, alone requires about 30-40 lakh tonnes of cement per year and about 3 lakh tonnes of steel per year. It would also generate employment opportunities of 18 crore man-days. This has resulted in growth of cement industry by 9.3% and that of steel industry by 7.3% during period April to October 2002.

(c) The major impact of road construction programmes would be as under

(i) Connectivity and mobility.

(ii) Savings in vehicle operating cost,

(iii) Savings in travel time and fuel,

(iv) Reduction in accidents,

(v) Removal of regional Imbalances,

(vl) Employment generation.